

World Cup 2010 News Summary

June 10-11, 2010

A selection of World Cup 2010 highlights from the media

- Minister Says 'Tight Security' Measures in Place for US-England Game
- Chinese Journalists Robbed by Armed Gang in Johannesburg
- Armed Man Robs Escort of 20 Chinese Tourists in Johannesburg
- ‘Mystery’ Surrounds ‘Missing’ Money From Greek Team's Camp
- RSA: Cape Town City Launches 'Comprehensive Safety Plan' for World Cup
- RSA Says Foreign Police Have Been 'Incredibly Helpful' in Identifying Hooligan
- US Vice President Joe Biden Arrives 10 Jun
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- RSA Video: Business Owners Object to Sony 3D Viewing Dome

Minister Says 'Tight Security' Measures in Place for US-England Game – SAPA reported on 10 June that North West’s provincial minister for public safety, Howard Yawa, said tight security measures have been put in place for the US and England World Cup match in Rustenburg on 12 June. “A zero tolerance against crime, unruly fans and spectators will be maintained throughout Rustenburg, park n rides, park n walk, fields fan fest, public viewing areas in our respective districts and at the stadium venue,” he said in a statement. Yawa said that since 9 June “all vehicles entering the stadium precinct henceforth have to go through the remote search park for a thorough scan.”

Chinese Journalists Robbed by Armed Gang in Johannesburg – A 10 June AFP report quoted Chinese state media as saying that an armed gang stole money and a camera from four Chinese journalists that are in Johannesburg to cover the World Cup. Several men attacked the journalists when their car stopped on the side of the road as they returned to Johannesburg after an interview. The thieves reportedly made off with a small amount of cash and a camera worth about \$1,500.

Armed Man Robs Escort of 20 Chinese Tourists in Johannesburg -- SAPA reported on 10 June that according to police spokesman Colonel Vish Naidoo said that a Chinese man with South African citizenship was accompanying a bus with 20 Chinese tourists in Germiston, Johannesburg, on 10 June while traveling in his own car. The vehicles stopped in an informal settlement to watch a film being shot. An armed man held up the escort and took his digital camera and cell phone. The gunman and three accomplices sped away from the scene. Naidoo added that none of the tourists was hurt.

‘Mystery’ Surrounds ‘Missing’ Money From Greek Team's Camp – The Mercury Online reported on 10 June that “mystery surrounds the disappearance of R30,000 [rand] from the Greek soccer team, who are based at the Beverly Hills hotel in Umhlanga.” The report stated that while police have confirmed that money has gone missing from the hotel, its management has denied this. Beverly Hills general manager Patsy Esposito said on 9 June that no money had been stolen, but the hotel’s management was conducting an internal investigation into the matter because “people had been talking about money going missing.” KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson Brigadier Phindile Radebe said no one

had opened a case. "We understand there was money missing, but the hotel told us they would deal with the matter internally," she said.

RSA: Cape Town City Launches 'Comprehensive Safety Plan' for World Cup -- Cape Argus Online reported on 10 June that Cape Town's leaders have asked the city's residents to do their best to guard and protect 2010 World Cup tourists as the city and police have launched a comprehensive safety plan. The head of the city's safety portfolio, JP Smith, told the Cape Argus on 10 June that "the city now has the largest CCTV footprint in Africa." He admitted that "compared with London or New York we are still babes in the wood, but we're not doing too badly at all." Provincial Community Safety MEC (Member of Executive Committee) Lennit Max said "We are ready like never before" and insisted that from what has been presented to him, the city is "prepared for any eventuality." Western Cape Premier Helen Zille also added her voice and urged citizens to "do their bit".

RSA Says Foreign Police Have Been 'Incredibly Helpful' in Identifying Hooligans -- On 10 June SAPA reported that several hundred foreign police officers, from nations competing in the cup, are in South Africa on duty alongside 40,000 local counterparts who have been assigned to police the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup. South African police spokeswoman Brigadier Sally de Beer said foreign security officials did not bring firearms into the country with them and do not have powers of arrest, but have already proved very useful. According to de Beer, foreign police officers will be outside the stadium in uniform when their country is playing, and in plain clothes inside to help tip-off our officers of any problems. Police ministry spokesman Zweli Mnisi said foreign nations on average brought six to eight policemen into South Africa with their soccer team. According to SAPA, the United States is understood to have exceeded the average several times.

US Vice President Joe Biden Arrives 10 Jun -- SAfm Radio reported on 10 June that US Vice President Joe Biden has arrived in South Africa for a three-day visit. He will address a reception with South African leaders at the US Consulate in Sandton, Johannesburg,, on 11 June before attending the official opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup. On 12 June, Biden will hold private talks with the South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, and the International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. Biden will reportedly travel to Rustenburg, where he will watch the match between the US and England.

'About' 25 African Leaders Expected to Attend World Cup Opening Ceremony -- Cape Times reported on 10 June that South African officials say about 25 African leaders have accepted invitations for the opening of the World Cup. This includes Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Morgan Tsvangirai, and Arthur Mutambara, and also Kenya's Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga. Other African leaders expected are Nigeria's Goodluck Jonathan, Ghana's John Atta Mills and Algeria's Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Outside of Africa, Bolivia's Evo Morales, Mexico's Felipe Calderon are also expected.

RSA: 'Rogue' African Leaders 'Conspicuously Absent' from World Cup Celebrations -- In an 11 June report, Pretoria News Online stated that with a new democratic Africa, four African leaders will be "conspicuously absent" - either because they have seized power by coups or because they are under criminal indictment. Ayanda Ntsaluba, the director-general at the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, said the presidents of Madagascar, Guinea and Niger had not been invited as they are under AU sanctions for having "seized power unconstitutionally". He said Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir had been invited, but added that "for reasons related to Sudan" he would not be attending. He has been told that if he does come, South Africa will have to arrest him.

RSA Video: Business Owners Object to Sony 3D Viewing Dome – eNews Channel reported on 10 June that restaurant owners on Nelson Mandela Square in the upmarket suburb of Sandton in Johannesburg say Sony's 3D viewing dome has ruined the space. The World Cup will be broadcast in 3D for the first time, but tenants say the structure will negatively affect their business.